

Human Rights Commission Meeting
January 17, 2013, 6-8pm, Bangs Community Center

Present: Kathleen Anderson, Liam Brodigan, Emily Jung, Carol Ross, Ingrid Askew, Gregory Bascomb

Absent: Lois Raj Others: Deborah Radway, Leslie Saulsberry

Meeting called to order by Gregory Bascomb at 6:05 pm

1. Agenda Review and Additions: Discussion about new chairperson. We will appoint a facilitator for the February meeting, and we will elect a new chairperson in March.
2. Review of November and December 2012 minutes/acceptance: No November minutes. December 2012 minutes accepted.
3. New Business:

MLK weekend events update: noontime gathering at Town Hall steps – Michelle Brooks-Thompson unable to sing as planned. Ingrid and Carol will go to the breakfast representing the HRC. We'll plan better in the future. Ideas: broadcast parts of MLK's speech?

Peace Walk Sponsorship proposal (Ingrid Askew): The Peace Pagoda nuclear disarmament focus, interfaith and interracial group, will walk from Leverett to D.C. Looking for location in Amherst on February 16th for meal and event. Will HRC co-sponsor and support by organizing a potluck meal and a place for the evening event for approx. 80 people. Greg will see if Bangs Center is available. Back up location – Amherst College or Jones Library. Motion by Liam Brodigan, seconded by Carol Ross in favor of NE Peace Pagoda meal and event on Feb 16, 2012 to be sponsored by Amherst HRC – motion approved unanimously. Ingrid is the contact person.

Black History Month – Carol Ross and Ingrid Askew. Plans are taking shape. Event on Feb 16 for local artists to paint downtown windows. LSSE, Chamber of Commerce, and Media Arts are involved. Goal is to promote younger voices – the "BHM PROJECT". Feb 21 7pm BHM PROJECT UNPLUGGED – an open mic spoken word event at Town Hall led by Ingrid Askew with High school involvement – media dept, performing arts dept, art dept. Amherst Media – to broadcast live and may make a documentary of painting event. Liam and Emily will contact depts. and set up meetings with Ingrid and Carol.

2013 Program Priorities – Some informal thoughts from Commission members-more activity on our website, collaboration with other community and town boards and commissions, video footage of people on the streets talking about Human Rights – An active HRC blog, Members join Media Arts – so can borrow and use equipment. Can we be member as a HRC organization or individuals? Deb will find out. Motion by Liam Brodigan, seconded by Ingrid Askew in favor of spending up to \$100 for HRC to be a member of Media Arts – motion approved unanimously. March meeting to focus on 2013 program and priorities for the Commission.

4. Student Commissioner's Report: Will report progress of BHM connection to HS next meeting. Middle School disciplinary issue will be discussed at next meeting – how do we address issues like this? We need to think about how to address a complaint.
5. Announcements:
 - a. Vacancies still exist for two more commissioners
 - b. January 24 – Amherst Historic Commission will hold public comment meeting about a renovation of the portion of Town Common known as North Common. It is seeking public input – our input: This is a valuable public space where vigils and protests are held and public speakers present – Deb will draft something up for our comment.
 - c. Next meeting, Feb 21 will be at **3:00 PM** prior to the Unplugged event.

- Meeting Adjourned 7:34 PM
Emily Jung, notetaker